

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE  
EASTERN DIVISION

TONNIE JELKS, )  
                  )  
Plaintiff,      )  
                  )  
VS.               )                  No. 15-1062-JDT-egb  
                  )  
OFFICER KLUTZ, ET AL., )  
                  )  
Defendants.     )

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ORDER DIRECTING PLAINTIFF TO COMPLY WITH 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2)  
OR PAY THE \$400 CIVIL FILING FEE

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On March 25, 2015, Plaintiff Tonnie Jelks, who is incarcerated at the Madison County Criminal Justice Complex in Jackson, Tennessee, filed a *pro se* complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF Nos. 1 & 2.)

Under the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”), 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(a)-(b), a prisoner bringing a civil action must pay the filing fee required by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). Although the obligation to pay the fee accrues at the moment the case is filed, *see McGore v. Wrigglesworth*, 114 F.3d 601, 605 (6th Cir. 1997), *partially overruled on other grounds by LaFountain v. Harry*, 716 F.3d 944, 951 (6th Cir. 2013), the PLRA provides the prisoner the opportunity to make a “down payment” of a partial filing fee and pay the remainder in installments. § 1915(b)(2). However, in order to take advantage of the installment procedures, the prisoner must properly complete and submit to the district court, along with

the complaint, an *in forma pauperis* affidavit containing a certification by the prison trust account officer and a copy of his trust account statement for the last six months. § 1915(a)(2).

In this case, the affidavit submitted by Plaintiff is not accompanied by a certified copy of Plaintiff's trust account statement.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, Plaintiff is ORDERED to submit, within thirty (30) days after the date of this order, either the entire \$400 civil filing fee<sup>2</sup> or an *in forma pauperis* affidavit and a certified copy of his trust account statement for the last six months. The Clerk is directed to provide Plaintiff with another copy of the prisoner affidavit form along with this order. If Plaintiff needs additional time to file the required documents, he may request one 30-day extension of time from this Court. *McGore*, 114 F.3d at 605.

If Plaintiff timely submits the necessary documents and the Court finds that he is indeed indigent, the Court will grant leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* and assess a filing fee of \$350 in accordance with the installment procedures of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b). However, if Plaintiff fails to comply with this order in a timely manner, the Court will deny leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*, assess the entire \$400 filing fee without regard to the installment

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<sup>1</sup> Attached to the complaint is an Inmate Request Form directed to "Ms. Hale" in which Plaintiff requests a print out of his account. (ECF No. 1-1 at 4.) Also attached is what appears to be an account statement for Plaintiff, handwritten on a piece of notebook paper. (*Id.* at 5.) However, the document contains no certification by any prison official, so it is unclear who prepared it or whether it is accurate.

<sup>2</sup> Twenty-eight U.S.C. § 1914(a) requires a civil filing fee of \$350. In addition, § 1914(b) requires the clerk to "collect from the parties such additional fees . . . as are prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States." The Judicial Conference has prescribed an additional administrative fee of \$50 for filing any civil case, except for cases seeking habeas corpus and cases in which the plaintiff is granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* under 28 U.S.C. § 1915. Therefore, if Plaintiff is ultimately granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* in accordance with the PLRA, he will not be responsible for the additional \$50 fee.

payment procedures, and dismiss the action without further notice pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b), for failure to prosecute. *McGore*, 114 F.3d at 605.<sup>3</sup>

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ James D. Todd  
JAMES D. TODD  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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<sup>3</sup> Even a voluntary dismissal by Plaintiff will not eliminate the obligation to pay the filing fee. *McGore*, 114 F.3d at 607; *see also In re Alea*, 286 F.3d 378, 381 (6th Cir. 2002).